

# State of Connecticut

NANCY WYMAN  
COMPTROLLER



MARK E. OJAKIAN  
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

Hartford

## Testimony Before the Select Committee on Aging State Comptroller Nancy Wyman February 19, 2009

Good Morning Chairwoman Prague, Chairman Serra, Senator Kissel, Representative Frey and distinguished members of the Select Committee on Aging. I am State Comptroller Nancy Wyman and I would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit testify to you today on a two concepts regarding long term care.

This Committee has been a consistent advocate for innovative policies surrounding Connecticut's growing long term care needs, and I appreciate the Chairs continued commitment to finding real solutions.

As our population ages, everyone is affected by the emotional, financial and physical needs of our loved ones. Many of us must confront the realities associated with our aging relatives and face the difficulties it takes to make sure they get the quality care that they deserve.

Our long term care system needs help, as an entire generation of baby boomers reach the age when instead of dispensing help, they might need some in return. In Connecticut we have more than six hundred thousand residents who are over the age of sixty and the baby boom generation to come numbers one million.

Our nation's elderly population is expected to double over the next thirty years to seventy million over the age of sixty. We are living longer and a large number of those seventy million are going to require some type of long term care during their lifetime. The raised bills before you today are steps to ensure we, as state officials, take responsibility for those who now need us most.

I would like to note **Senate Bill 489, "An Act Concerning a Single Point of Entry for Long-Term Care."** Creating a state wide system to provide individuals and families with comprehensive information regarding their long term care questions will give them the tools they need to make informed decisions. Too often, Connecticut's consumers of long term care are confused by the fragmented system that is currently in place.

Recommended by the 2007 Long Term Care Needs Assessment, the creation of a single point of entry would enable our elderly to make informed decisions at a difficult and emotional period in their lives. I encourage the Committee to look at initiatives that make it easier for our residents to understand the long term care options and resources that are available to them.

Briefly, I would like to comment on Senate Bill 664, **“An Act Concerning Billing for Assisted Living Services Covered by Long-Term Care Insurance.”** This bill would allow an assisted living facility to bill directly an insurance company for services that are covered under a long term care policy. It is important that we streamline the billing process to make it easier for patients to concentrate on their well being and not the complicated paperwork involved with insurance claims.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today.